



No 94

April, 2009

President's Letter

Calendar

- BBLA Board Meeting
4/18/09
- Birch Tree Sale at BBLA
Office 5/2/09
- Annual Ladies Luncheon
5/16/09
- BBLA Board Meeting
5/16/09
- BBLA Board Meeting
6/20/09
- 12th Annual Golf Outing
6/27/09
- BBLA Board Meeting
7/18/09
- BBLA Annual Meeting
8/15/09

With the advent of spring after a long and very cold winter, activity at Big Birch is beginning to pick up. I've already seen neighbors that weren't around all winter. Lake residents and cabin owners are returning to check out their properties. The snowbirds along with the robins are slowly returning as well. It won't be long and the ice will be melting and loons will be here too.

As this activity increases so does the work of the BBLA Board. I'm optimistic 2009 will be a great year at the lake. The creeks need to be maintained, channel marker signs and buoys need to be installed, loon beds prepared and placed, water samples need to be taken and tested, etc. We are also looking forward to increased cooperation with Todd County officials regarding non-compliant septic systems.

The new Sauk River Watershed District Administrator, Holly Kvorak, met with the BBLA Board recently and provided them with a detailed update as to its 2009 agenda. We look forward to working with them as well. Additionally, we were informed there will be several position openings on their board from Todd and Stearns Counties. Anyone interested

in clean water issues and a position on that board can contact them or the BBLA and we can help facilitate that process.

We hope to meet with the new Area DNR Supervisor, Eric Altena, and get a current update from him regarding his lake management plan for Big Birch Lake.

Our Lake Shore Management Committee will be attempting to identify and meet with lakeshore property owners regarding lakescaping and runoff issues consistent with the recent recommendations provided by A.W. Research. If any of you are considering a lake shore project, please don't hesitate to contact any of your BBLA directors. We may be able to help with funding your project and we may be able to help facilitate additional funding through the county or with grant money. There is a lot to do, and I look forward to seeing all of you at the lake.

Have a safe, happy and healthy summer at the Lake!

Ralph H. Mehr
President

Birch trees for sale on Saturday, May 2

For the third year, BBLA member, Tim Glaros has organized a birch tree sale on Saturday May 2, from 10 a.m. to noon at the BBLA office in Grey Eagle.

This year the association has purchased 500 two to three-foot paper birch seedling trees which will be sold to lakeshore owners **to plant on their lake property.**

The tree sale will take place at the Big Birch Lake Association office located on the main street of Grey Eagle. Lake residents may purchase as many trees as

they like. This year the sale is four trees for \$5.

Payment: Please bring the exact amount in cash if possible or make checks payable to BBLA in the exact amount.

There is no minimum or maximum number of trees to purchase, but we recommend buying at least three so you can plant the trees in clumps.

If you have any questions, please call Tim Glaros at 612-760-8172.

Plant the trees right away and keep them well watered. We can all help Big Birch Lake become surrounded with beautiful birch trees.



Inside this issue:

- Report on Activities **2**
- Kutter's Column **3**
- Association Membership **4**
- Bogs, bogs, bogs **5**
- Balance Sheet **5**
- Contributing Sponsors **6**

Big Birch Lake Association Inc.
Report on Activities Feb. 2009

	Feb '09	Feb '08	Jul '08-Feb '09	% of Income
Income				
Book Proceeds	0.00	20.00	544.84	0.0%
Donations-Members	2,110.00	2,225.00	2,180.00	16.7%
Golf Outing	0.00	0.00	193.00	0.0%
Interest Income	323.11	376.66	2,526.00	2.6%
Membership Dues	7,920.00	8,460.00	8,220.00	62.5%
Memorials-Other	425.00	0.00	460.00	3.4%
Product or Service Income	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.0%
Sponsors Contributions	<u>1,885.00</u>	<u>1,955.00</u>	<u>2,225.00</u>	<u>14.9%</u>
Total Income	12,663.11	13,036.66	16,383.84	100.0%
Expenses				
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	177.52	0.0%
Channel Clearing	0.00	0.00	1,294.00	0.0%
Insurance	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.0%
Meetings/Conference	0.00	0.00	106.40	0.0%
Membership Drive	236.11	320.38	488.11	1.9%
Mn. Lakes Assoc.	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.0%
Newsletter	421.85	1,361.41	2,095.13	3.3%
Rent	750.00	0.00	1,050.00	0.0%
Secretary Compensation	0.00	0.00	1,050.00	0.0%
Social Events	0.00	0.00	1,180.26	0.0%
Supplies & Copies	0.00	0.00	202.55	0.0%
Uncategorized Expense	0.00	817.60	248.00	0.0%
Water Projects	3,940.00	0.00	4,574.31	31.1%
Total Expense	<u>5,347.96</u>	<u>2,499.39</u>	<u>13,266.28</u>	<u>42.2%</u>
Net Income	<u>7,315.15</u>	<u>10,537.27</u>	<u>3,117.56</u>	<u>57.8%</u>

Obituaries of lake residents

Donald W. Kolb, 97 of Melrose and formerly of Holdingford, and Big Birch Lake died Nov. 14, 2008.

Don was born November 17, 1910 in Belgrade to George and Mamie (Unger) Kolb. He married Mildred Peters on June 20, 1934 in Cold Spring. The couple moved to Bowlus, where Don managed the mill owned by his family. In 1948, they moved to Holdingford when Don's family purchased the mill there. Don, Mildred and their family spent their summers at their home on Big-Birch Lake. In 1976, the Kolb family sold their feed mills and Don retired. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, a Fourth Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus St. Isadore Council #9307, and a member of the Lion's Club for 48 years. Don loved to duck hunt, and he enjoyed raising black labs.

Don is survived by his children: Pat (John) Urbanski, Minneapolis; Mary (Eugene) Cipala, Holdingford; Tom (Alain) Kolb, Milaca

and Charles Kolb, Rockford, IL. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Mildred in August of 2000; his grandson, Phillip Urbanski; his sisters, Lorayne Cummings and Marguerite Harris, and his brother, George Kolb.

Richard H. Grossman, 85 of Minnetonka died January 8, 2009. He is survived by his wife Nadine; children Jim (Jan), Steve (Kathy); four grandchildren, two great grandchildren' sister, Jeanette Meierhofer' numerous nieces and nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Othelia.

Dick was a WWII veteran and had a lifelong career in the insurance industry.

Dick was a former member of the Lake Association Board and a committed volunteer. He did weekly secchi disk readings as recently as the past summer.

Dick also represented the Big Birch Lake Association on the Todd/Stearns Coalition of Lake Associations. He was a very good friend of the lake.

Donald L. "Don" Stalboerger, age 83, of Grey Eagle, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Friday, January 30, 2009 at Pine Haven Care Center in Melrose.

Donald Stalboerger was born September 2, 1925 in Melrose to Henry and Bernadine (Schoenberg) Stalboerger. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force in Cuba during World War II. On June 18, 1949 he married Lorraine Haider in Melrose. He attended Melrose High School, St. Cloud State University and the Wisconsin School of Banking. Don owned and operated the Melrose State Bank. He was very active in the Melrose community and involved in many groups and organizations. Don was an avid outdoorsman and happily retired to his home on Big Birch Lake. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Melrose and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grey Eagle.

Survivors include his wife of almost 60 years, Lorraine (Haider) Stalboerger of Grey Eagle; daughters, Mary (Bill) Carter of Minnetonka, Judy (Tim) Smith of Maple Grove, Jean Wocken of Shoreview, Ann (Richard) Kalgren of Chanhasen and Amy (Glenn) Bauer of Melrose; 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 4 step grandchildren and 3 step great grandchildren; sister, Lorraine Wallentine of Hastings, and niece, Susan Rotty.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; and brother-in-law, Howard Wallentine.

A long and cold winter finally departs

Early December snowfalls followed by weeks of sub-zero temperatures through January made the winter at Big Birch Lake seem longer than most.

The old year ended with 15 inches of snow on the ground, and the new began with more snow on the third day of 2009. The snow didn't come in small amounts either. Six, eight or ten inches at a time was not uncommon. Seeing the world from behind a snow blower or shovel has a certain winter charm but when it becomes a nearly daily routine, the charm fades quickly.

Snowmobile traffic picked in January and cold temperatures didn't seem to keep riders from flying across the snow covered expanse of ice.

The common redpoll was a regular winter visitor to the bird feeding stations. It is smaller than a sparrow with pale brown-streaked feathers, a bright red cap and black chin. The male also has a pink breast. It summers in the Tundra and winters here preferring brushy pastures, open thickets and weedy fields. It spends much time on the ground but will also perch on feeders. It is tame and trusting and allows close approach; unfortunately that trait is good news for predators.

With plenty of snow on the ground and cold in the air, one might want to stay inside, but a better approach is to embrace the winter season as we do the other three. Cross country skiing is a quiet way to see the lake in winter. The crunch of skis on snow is the only sound one hears until a rooster pheasant is startled from its shoreline hiding place and flies up and over the ice to escape the gliding intruder. Pheasants also used the ice skating rink as a landing strip and then found their way to the bird feeding stations for lunch.

A deep freeze gripped the area in the second week of January. Daytime temperatures didn't get above zero and nighttime temps bottomed out at minus 30. The saving grace was lots of sunshine. January stayed frigid until the last day of the month when the temperature reached a balmy 42 degrees. Such a dramatic change in temperature came as

a shock in a winter that thus far had 28 days of subzero temperatures.

On the second day of February, we were back in the deep freeze with a high temperature of three degrees. Warmer days did follow and on Feb. 9 it was 36 degrees accompanied by wind, fog and rain. Rain fell through the night much like a summer storm and by morning most of the deep snow cover was gone. After the rain storm, temperatures moderated to the upper 20's and lower 30's through the middle of February.

We noticed a squirrel going in and out of a wood duck house on the day of the rain storm. I don't know if it was looking for new housing or just a port in the storm.

*"In all things of nature
There is something
Of the marvelous."*

—Aristotle

Aristotle had it right. On still, cold and quiet February nights, I sometimes hear the "hoo hoo-oo hoo hoo" of what is presumably the great horned owl. One owl will make a call and another more distant will respond with the same response. The great horned owl nests well before spring, earlier than any other bird. The owl hunts at night and with vision 50 to 100 times better than humans and extraordinary depth perception, it can pick out voles, mice, and rabbits with ease.

Before February could take its leave gracefully, it offered a new six to eight inch blanket of snow on the 26th. March followed with a mild temperament but not so warm as to melt the snow.

March always provides a dance between winter and spring. We never know which will lead. Winter led with another snow storm that moved in on March 10 leaving behind three to four inches of snow. Temperatures dropped to the teens below zero prolonging what already seemed a long and cold winter.

There was no point in clearing the ice rink one more time in March. Warm



Kutter's Column

temperatures deteriorated the smooth ice surface making skating treacherous. Warm temperature did follow the snowstorm with a high of 60 degrees on March 16. A major meltdown of snow took place during the third week of March. Seeing and listening to the rush of water from melted snow was a sure sign of spring. Creek banks overflowed and ditches filled with the runoff to Big Birch Lake. Water flowed onto the frozen lake making it difficult for fishermen to get onto the ice surface for late season fishing. With incoming water and temperature highs in the 40's and 50's, the lake ice began its retreat from the shoreline the third week of March. Then a rainstorm delivered two inches of rain on top of the snow melt. With the ground still frozen, the water moved downhill to the lake. The lake ice then took on the slate gray color that signals the end of its hold on the water.

Red-wing blackbirds, robins, mourning doves, grackles and starlings had all returned to the lake area by March 25th. Grass lawn showed signs of green, remaining snow banks clung to sheltered areas and the sound of the returning sand hill cranes was heard overhead.

Unfortunately winter wasn't done. Another snowstorm arrived the last day of March and left behind more snow. Just when we were accustomed to seeing the bare ground, we got another white, wet blanket. This storm that swept across Central Minnesota was indeed March leaving like a lion.

Even after days of snow and snow melt, rain and bailing water from the basement floor, and more snow removal, heaven seems a little closer in a house beside the water.

2009 Big Birch Lake Association Members

Adelmann, Ed & Karen
 Anderson, Derry
 Anderson, Marge
 Anderson, Warren & Chadyienne
 Andrews, Mike & Jackie
 Athmann, Judy
 Atkinson, Dan & Jan
 Atwood, Duane & Cindy
 Auger, John & Karen
 Beckermann, Fran & Linda
 Beekhuizen, Julie & Steve
 Bell, Bradley
 Benson, Marilyn
 Berg, Aaron & Becky
 Berg, Andrew & Chelsea
 Berg, Dwaine & Louise
 Berg, Ken and Bev
 Bergmann, Ken & Marilyn
 Beste, Tom & Julie
 Beyer, Harlowe
 Blommel Family
 Blommel, Leroy & Marilyn
 Bomstad, Gary & Susan
 Braegelmann, Patrick & Sandy
 Brattensborg, Ruth
 Broman, Ruth & Raleigh
 Brooking, Betty
 Bruyere, Jr., James & Marks-
 Bruyere, Connie
 Buchanan, Kent & JoAnne
 Budde, Sheldon & Joan
 Burger, Robert & Nanette
 Bushman, Wayne
 Butte, Rick & Colleen
 Campbell, Mel & Sherry
 Carlson, Allen & Shirley
 Carpenter, Todd & Laura
 Cash, Brian
 Chirhart, Jim & Penny
 Chmielewski, Daniel & Barbara
 Collins, Ken & Margaret
 Czap, Neil & Catherine
 Czarnowski, Lou
 Daly, Bill & Ann
 Damrow, June & Paul
 Davis, Scott & Marjo
 Dinndorf, Don & Floss
 Dobesh, Jeff & Jill
 Doth, Steve & Jean
 Dougherty, Joan
 Dougherty, Tim
 Dubiel, Marvin
 Elfering, Vic & Evie
 Engelmeyer, Ron & Mary Kay
 Enneking, Gene & Cheryl
 Erickson, Russ
 Erickson, Scott
 Ersland, Lynn & Mary Kay
 Enright, Jack & Kay
 Fehn, Kenneth & Barbara
 Felling, Merle & Kathy
 Finken, Carl & Ida
 First, Pete & Nicole
 Flaws, Michael & Marilyn
 Fox, Thomas & Laurie
 Freeman, Dave & Sue
 Freeman, Ralph & Laurie
 Frerichs, Clarence
 Froehling, Joe & Jeanie
 Funk, Robert & Carolyn
 Gagne, Robert & Christine
 Gallagher, Mike & Sarah
 Gallagher, Pat & Caryn
 Garding, Ralph & Rachel
 Gerding, Dewayne & Alvina
 Gerds, Bud & Elaine
 Gerner, Robert & Coplan, Charlene
 Glaros, Tim & Neiger, Vivian
 Glaser, Ted
 Goffin, Gerry
 Gordon, Brian & Kirsten
 Groth, Cathy & Gervais, Greg
 Gruenke, Bernie
 Hammarsten Dick & Cathy
 Hammarsten, James
 Hammarsten, James & Beth
 Hammerstrom, Lee
 Hammerstrom, Mary Jean
 Hanson, Earl & Carri
 Hatton, Rene & LuAnn
 Heinen, Doug & Nancy
 Helleman, Joe & Sheila
 Hennemann, Kitty
 Henry, Tom & Paula
 Hess, Herb & Mary Kay
 Hick, Robert & Margaret
 Hinman, Marge
 Hinnenkamp, Eb & Helen
 Hinnenkamp, Holly & Mary Jo
 Hinnenkamp, Marlene & Bill
 Hird, Louis & Clark
 Hird, Mike & Lyons, Cathi
 Holthaus, Ken & Joan
 Hughes, Bob & Sally
 Hughes, Dan & Liz
 Hughes, Frank & Bonnie
 Hughes, Parry & Kathy
 Humbert, Rick & Lois
 Huseby, Robert
 Hylden, Thomas & Shelley
 Ingold, Kirk & Mandi
 Ingold, Linnea
 Jacobsen, James & Marjorie
 Jaeger, Dwight & Audrey
 Jarsko, Judy
 Jepperson, Craig & Mary
 Jeske, Ron & Nancy
 Johnson, Craig & Debra
 Johnson, David & Betty
 Johnson, Evelyn B.
 Johnson, Jim & Mary A.
 Johnson, Kay & Adrian
 Kam, Erv
 Kappes, Mike & Jannie
 Kaschmitter, Jack
 Kemper, Linda & Jeff
 Kennedy, Dennis
 Kerfeld, Art & Rosie
 Kerfeld, Don & Diane
 Killian, Joe & Delores
 Kirchner, Jerry I Jonelle
 Kirscht, Dwight & Inez
 Klaphake, Florian & Doreen
 Klaphake, Pam & Steve
 Klaphake, Rick & Deb
 Klapperich, John & Suzy
 Klapperich-Straw, Julie
 Klases, Vern & Marlene
 Klocker, Barb
 Kluempke, Dave
 Kluempke, Jim & Cathy
 Kluempke, Sarah & Paul
 Klug, James
 Kohorst, Don, Lonie, Bob & JoAnn
 Kollodge, Marv & Mary Jane
 Kotsmith, Randy & Karen
 Kotsmith, Terry & Sharon
 Krebs, Regina
 Krekelberg, Dan
 Krig, Gary & Peggy
 Kuehne, Ron & Midge
 Kuhlmann, Mary
 Kutter, Robert & Nancy
 Kylo, Carole & Jack
 Lafayette Inc. Johnson Family
 LaMere, Mary & Art
 Larson, Gayle & Lemons, Karen
 Lenzen, Ruthie & John
 Lieder, Bill & Renee
 Lilligren, Kirk & Cathy
 Linz, Curt & Mary
 Loehr, Jim & Renee
 Lundeen, Darrell & Marlys
 Martin, Cris & Bonnie
 Martland, Richard & Marge
 McConnell, David & Ann
 McQueen, Kathleen
 Mehr, Ralph & Mary Ann
 Messerich, Steve & Char
 Meyer, Alys & Arlene
 Meyer, Barry & Stacy
 Meyer, Glenn & Dianne
 Meyer, Juel C.
 Meyer, Ken and Sherry
 Meyer, Mark & Barb
 Meyer, Roy & Susie
 Meyer, Virg & Joyce
 Midt Dahl, Gertrude
 Miley, Rod & Nancy
 Miller, Marty & Cathy
 Moening, Lee & Judy
 Mohr, Richard & Marilyn
 Mohs, Dean & Sandy
 Molitor, Joh & Pat
 Molitor, Karen & Chick
 Montzka, Cynthia
 Moser, Jean & Harry
 Muellner, Thom & Paula
 Mullen, Steve
 Nathe, Howie & Renee
 Nathe, Mike & Laura
 Neibling, Peggy
 Nelson, Gary & Pat
 Neville, Jim & Judie
 Neville, Steve
 Niehaus, Bob & Mies-Niehaus, Deb
 Niehaus, Tony & Carol
 Nohner, Bernice
 Nohner, Kevin & Mary
 Nordman, Alan & Judy
 Olson, Catherine
 Orth, Linda & Dave
 Osendorf, Bob & Rosie
 Ostendorf, Mark & Lisa
 Ostendorf, Ozzie & Lenore
 Ostrem, Justin & Amy
 Palmquist, Mary Pluth
 Parker, Larry & Jacqueline
 Patch, Richard & Lois
 Pavlicek, John & Kathy
 Pearson, John & Diona
 Pelo, Rod & Phyllis
 Peterson, Tom & Ginger
 Pflipsen, Charles & Arlene
 Phillips, Roger & Rosemary
 Piersak, Tom & Jeff
 Pitt, Don
 Pladson, Terry & Sue
 Plafcan, Paul & Deborah
 Plombon, Roger & Gloria
 Peopping, Lloyd & Millie
 Poganski, Rob & Lisa
 Poganski, Roger & Joyce
 Poganski, Roger & Marcia
 Powers, Robert & Kathleen
 Provinzino, John C. & Jannine A.
 Pung, Kenneth & Mary
 Rahn, David & Lisa
 Rediske, Dick & Marilyn
 Reed, Beverly
 Renard, Jeanine & Tom
 Richie, Lovell & Betty
 Rieger, Pamela & Joel
 Rieland, Chuck & Lucy
 Rieland, Jack & Shirley
 Rieland, Mike & Mary
 Roe, John & Janet
 Roehrl, Mel & Ann
 Rogotzke, Barbara & Arnold
 Rolfes, Harvey & Sally
 Rolfes, Robert & Charles
 Rose, John & Sharon
 Rudolph, Jerry & Debbie
 Russel, Jim & Mindy
 Rutherford, Laurel & Peter
 Salwasser, James & Mary
 Sand, Dan & Mary
 Savage, Bill & Sharon
 Schanhaar, Tom & Knutson, Deb
 Schiemann, Chuck & Ellie
 Schiffler, Dean & Carla
 Schlicht, Diane
 Schlough, Tom & Joyce
 Schmid, Ted & Julie
 Schmidt, Tom & JoAnn
 Schmit, Nicholas, & Karen
 Schmitz, David & Joyce
 Schnettler, John & Jan
 Schnettler, Mary & Ed
 Schriver, John & Leslie
 Schrom, Richard & Joyce
 Schwartz, Dick & Ellen
 Schwartz, Stephen & Joann
 Schwieters, Chuck & Bea
 Sealock, Don & Jennie
 Seep, Terry & Kimberly
 Seitzer, Jim & Belinda
 Sexton, Jim & Yvonne
 Shafer, Tom & Bonnie
 Sieben, Russell & Mary
 Silbernagel, John & Marie
 Sinclair, James & Carolyn
 Sinclair, Ken & Jan
 Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict
 Smoley, Greg & Gretchen
 Sorenson, Larry & Loanne
 Sorenson, Ray & Lois
 Spence, Jim & Chris
 Spitzmueller, Kathy & Bill
 Spoo, Jerry & Sharon
 Stalboerger, Lorraine
 Steinbring, John & Sandy
 Strack, Laurie & Bob
 Strait, Peggy
 Stueve, Charlie & Doris
 Stueve, Elaine
 Tanner, Ed & Lucy
 Taylor, Norm & Mildred
 Taylor, Paul
 Tembrock, Henry & Marion
 Thieschafer, Glen & Beth
 Thode, Ed & Barbara
 Thome, Scott & Maxine
 Thompson, Sally & Rod
 Tiemann, Bill
 Tiemann, Goerge & Lorraine
 Tiemann, Lyle
 Timmerman, John
 Timp, Art & Jean
 Tomsche, David & Molly
 Tomsche, Ed & Theresa
 Trapp, George & Adela
 Trulson, Kent & Loretta
 Tschida, Wayne & JoAnn
 Tweedale, Craig & Mary Lou
 Vener, John & Corinne
 Vener, Mike & Kim
 Viere, Kevin & Ann
 Voelker, Fran & Mil
 Waldorf, Gene & Bernie
 Walker, Tom
 Walters, George & Sue
 Warnert, Ron & Lee Meyer
 Weitzel, Bob & Jean
 Weitzel, Mary & John
 Westpahl, Monte & Pat
 Wiebolt, Bernard & Dorine
 Wolters, Ronald
 Worms, Bridget
 Worms, Tim & Gidlow, Sonja
 Wright, Walter & Phyllis
 Zaborski, Tom & Julia
 Zaczkowski, Marie
 Zimmerman, Larry & Marion
 Zimmerman, Lowell & Kris
 Zirbes, June

Thanks for
 renewing your membership

Bogs, bogs, bogs, and what to do about them

By Ralph Mehr

With the advent of spring runoff and upcoming rain events, we expect the lake level to be higher than usual. That coupled with possible high winds, floating bogs may once again be an issue many of us will be concerned about. Floating bogs can and do cause damage to lakeshore residents' property on both ends of Big Birch Lake but primarily in the Upper Bay. I recently had a long conversation about bogs with Ms. Audrey Kuchinski, Aquatic Plant Management Specialist, Mn. DNR, Little Falls Office, regarding what if anything can be done about them. What follows is a summary of the information she provided. I need to preface this by saying that neither the DNR or the BBLA is in the business of bog removal. In fact, the DNR discourages bog removal from the lakes. Bogs are viewed as habitat for wildlife of all kinds, i.e. waterfowl, fish, birds, amphibians, bugs etc.

What is A bog?

A bog is a soft, wet, spongy "ground" containing living and non-living aquatic plant material in a matrix which may be extensive and exist as a "whole" bog or as a piece of bog broken off from the main bog and floating around the lake.

Individual Permit Requirements

Bogs that are unattached to the lake bottom and migrating may be handled one of two ways listed below under 1 and 2. Bogs that are attached (rooted) to the lake bottom at some point may be handled as listed under 3 below. Other than listed here, the DNR will only permit removal of bogs if they are blocking a lake control device or wild life structure such as dams, fish traps, etc.

1. To REMOVE bog material that has floated into the shoreline (not attached to the bottom), a PERMIT TO CONTROL AQUATIC PLANTS OR ORGANISMS is required from the DNR. There is no fee for this type of permit.
2. To MOVE bog material that has floated into the shoreline (and is not attached to

			Feb 28, '09
ASSESTS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
	CD-Tier 4-1		56,992.21
	CD Central MN - 3 SPL		7,844.26
	CD CMFCU #8		41,060.49
	Cert of Dep. 7 CMFCU		17,489.84
	Cert of Dep. 0002 CMFCU		7,060.96
	Checking-Central MN CU		9,395.41
	Money Mkt.-Central MN CU		35.74
	Share A/C Central MN CU		<u>10.82</u>
Total Checking Savings			<u>139,889.73</u>
Total Current Assest			<u>139,889.73</u>
TOTAL ASSESTS			<u>139,889.73</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Long Term Liabilities			
	Buffer Obligations-Strip Agree		<u>9,996.50</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities			<u>9,996.50</u>
Total Liabilities			9,996.50
Equity			
	Opening Bal. Equity		25,233.98
	Retained Earnings		<u>101,541.69</u>
	Net Income		<u>3,117.56</u>
Total Equity			129,893.23
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			<u>139,889.73</u>

the bottom) to another location on the lake (i.e. tow it back to where it came from or push back out from you shoreline) you must obtain a PERMIT TO TRANSPLANT AQUATIC VEGETATION from the DNR. There is no fee for this type of permit.

3. To remove any bog material that is PERMANENTLY ATTACHED (rooted to the bottom or solidly attached to the bottom at some point) also requires a permit. If the work will be done by hand means, a PERMIT TO CONTROL AQUATIC PLANTS OR ORGANISMS must be obtained from the DNR. Permits for this situation are site spe-

cific and typically are limited to either removal of a 15 foot wide channel or cutting of plant foliage in an area 15 feet wide for placement of a permanent dock over the top of the bog to gain access to the lake. The application fee and the permit fee (if granted) is a maximum of \$35.00.

Generally speaking, small bogs can be removed with a permit to do so. Large bogs are to be taken back to where they came from and staked in place. Permits are required by the DNR to move, remove or re-attach all bogs.

Bogs continues on page 8

Big Birch Lake Contributing Sponsors, 2009

ALBANY

Ecolab Pest Elimination Stanley Kortenbusch (800) 325-1671

FREEPORT

Atkinson Well & Pump Ltd. Rodney Atkinson (320) 836-2597

Charlies Café Jesse & Julie Job (320) 836-2105

Ellingson Plb,Htg-A/C Phil Osendorf (320) 836-2117

Freeport State Bank (320) 836-2126

Hennen Floor Covering 320-836-2177 (800) 472-987

Hennen Lumber Co. Tim Hennen (320) 836-2135

BURTRUM

Hub Supper Club Bruce G. Rohde (320) 285-4318

GREY EAGLE

Benchmark Real Estate Judy Frieler (320) 491-0024

Bitz Hardware-Floe Dock & Lifts Steve & LaVonne Bitz (320) 285-2000

Bitz Plumbing & Heating Services, Inc. Loren Bitz (320) 285-4875

Central Lakes Landscape & Construction Ken Frieler (320) 491-8444

Central MN Federal Credit Union, Grey Eagle Tim Twardowski (888) 330-8482

Double "R" Bar & Grill Bob & Norie Pallansch (320) 285-2965

Grey Eagle BP Dave & Lisa Rahn (320) 285-2336

Grey Eagle Electric, Inc. Kevin & Nancy Bitz (320) 285-2626

Hinman's Lawn Service John & Kathy Hinman (320) 285-3811

Kutter Insurance Agency Michael Kutter (800) 955-6051

Lake Country Storage John & Janet Roe (320) 285-4965

Marilyn's Vacations Marilyn & Leroy Blommel (320) 285-5595

Olive Branch Retreat Sheila Burski (320) 393-7212

R & B Gessell Reality & Auction Co./Gessell Auto Sales Romie & Beth Gessell (320) 285-3751

Sound Force Disc Jockey John Young (320) 285-5263

The Junction (320) 285-2383

The Rock Tavern Paul & Joan Ellering (320) 285-3576

Update Building Supply Duane Becker (320) 285-8085

Village Café Theresa Pansch (320) 285-2800

LITTLE FALLS

CH Professional Cattering Jason & Laure Freeman (320) 632-2501

Cabin Fever Saloon & Eatery Ron, Midge, Eric, Brenda, Melissa Kuehne (320) 632-3526

MELROSE

Boomerrang Marine & Powersports Dick Peifer (320) 256-4642

Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union (320) 256-4269

diversiCOM Melrose Telephone Company David Del Zoppo, CEO (320) 256-7471

Dymoke Law Office Scott E. Dymoke & Rachel J. Dymoke (320) 256-4205

Ernie's Family Foods Ernie Kociemba (320) 256-4444

Health Wise Massage Therapy Syndie Studanski, CMT (320) 333-8717

Kraemer Lumber Company, Inc. Barry Meyer (320) 256-4275

Mayers Inc. Robert & Mark Mayers (320) 256-4479

Melrose Bakery David & Sherry Ostendorf (320) 256-4623

Meyer Electric, Inc. Ray & Darlene Ostendorf (320) 256-3274

Rahn's Oil & Propane, Inc. Dave & Lisa Rahn (320) 256-3680

Snyder V & S Variety John & Linda Kociemba (320) 256-4415

Stearns Electric Association George Jensen (320) 256-4241

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

The Outdoor News Inc. Glenn Meyer & Dianne Meyer (763) 546-4251

SAUK CENTRE

Captain's Table Ron & Midge Kuehne (320) 352-2591

Felling Trailers, Inc. Merle J. & Kathy Felling (320) 352-5239

First State Bank & Agency (320) 352-5771

Minnesota National Bank Paul Skorheim, CEO (320) 352-5211

ST. CLOUD

Godfather's Exterminating, Inc. Kim Lykken (800) 317-5974

Prudential Pladson Realty, Inc. Sue Pladson (320) 240-3360

ST. ROSA

Arnzen Construction, Inc. John Arnzen & Bob Arnzen (320) 836-2284

All Stars Sprots Bar & Grill Mike Arnzen (320) 836-2154

St. Rosa Lumber, Inc. Alvin Leinen & John Arnzen (320) 836-2154

Big Birch Lake Association Board of Directors

The Big Birch Lake Newsletter is an official publication of the Big Birch Lake Association, Inc.

PO Box 342
Grey Eagle, Minnesota 56336

Ralph Mehr, President
Robert Kutter, Editor
E-mail: bbla@meltel.net
Web Site:
www.birchlakeassociation.org

Director	Representing	Lake Phone	Home Phone
Ralph H. Mehr, Pres.	Area B Director		320-256-7416
John Roe, VP	Area E Director		320-285-4965
Jonelle Kirchner, Treas.	Area H Director		320-285-3677
James Chirhart, Sec.	Director at Large		320-256-7223
Don Dinndorf	Director at Large	320-836-2800	320-845-2665
Nancy Heinen	Area J Director	320-285-2436	320-252-8697
Jim Jacobsen	Area A Director	320-256-3804	612-729-5297
Robert Kutter	Director at Large		320-285-5114
Renee Loehr	Area I Director		320-285-2823
Dean Mohs	Area D Director		320-285-7155
Roger Plombon	Area F Director	320-285-2623	320-252-4886
Chuck Rieland	Director at Large	320-256-7148	763-571-9661
Jim Sinclair	Director at Large		320-285-5605
Gene Waldorf	Area G. Director		320-285-8867
Monte Westphal	Area C Director		320-836-2988

Big Birch Lake Association e-mail address: bbla@meltel.net

**12th Annual
BIG BIRCH LAKE RESIDENTS GOLF OUTING
Friday, June 26th, 2009**

- 12:30 p. m. Sign in. Coffee & rolls
- 1:30 p.m. Tee off
- 5:30 p.m. Attitude Adjustment
- 6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner and Awards



- \$30.00 Entry fee includes golf, carts, dinner and prizes
 - \$10.00 Entry fee includes dinner only, no golf and is non-refundable for no shows
- Limit 90 Golfers

Afternoon card playing for non-golfers (need 20)

Please return entry fee by June 12th, 2009

Please detach entry form below and send to:

BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 342
GREY EAGLE MN 56336

----- ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$30.00 GOLF AND DINNER

----- ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$10.00 DINNER ONLY, NON- REFUNDABLE FOR NO SHOWS

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

CITY/STATE -----

INDICATE YOUR GOLFING ABILITY FOR TEAM BALANCE BY CIRCLING THE APPROPRIATE LETTER

- A--- VERY GOOD
- B--- GOOD
- C--- FAIR
- D--- GOLF A FEW TIMES A YEAR

**Big Birch Lake Annual
Ladies Spring Luncheon**

Saturday, May 16
Captain's Table – 4 miles N
of Sauk Centre



Italian Luncheon
Caesar Salad
Authentic Four Cheese with
Italian Sausage Lasagna
Garlic Bread
Tiramisu Dessert
Coffee & Ice Tea

Gratuities & Taxes Included
Cost - \$13.00

Open bar and social hour at 11:00 AM
Lunch at 12:30 PM

Come Meet your Lake Friends and Neighbors
Please return registration with payment by May 6 to:

(Make checks payable to Big Birch Lake Association)

Nancy Heinen
Big Birch Lake Association
P.O. Box 342
Grey Eagle MN 56336

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: _____

PHONE NUMBER _____



Bogs continued from page 4

Who is responsible for damage caused by bogs?

Bogs torn loose by Mother Nature are considered "Acts of God" by the DNR and nobody can be held responsible for any damage caused by them. As property owners on the lake, we own the land to the waters edge. We have riparian rights to use the public body of water. Along with our riparian rights, we are allowed to install docks, lifts, rafts etc., but in doing so we assume the risk of any damage to such property caused by natural events. With that being said, it is illegal to cut or clear bogs and shove them off to cause damage elsewhere! If that is being done and can be proven, the enforcement authority is the local game warden. Should you have evidence of obvious bog cutting and removal, the conservation officer should be called to investigate the matter.

I would hope that all of us are good stewards of the lake and that we don't just shove off bogs that have landed on our shore to do damage elsewhere. Individual property owners are responsible for bogs landing on their shoreline or their property. I would encourage all residents with this problem to contact the Aquatic Plants Management Office of the DNR in Little Falls Mn., Ph# 320-616-2450, Ext. 235 and secure the proper permit for bog movement or removal. If help is needed

to move a bog, I am sure the BBLA can round up volunteers to help with this process.

I will end by saying, once again, the DNR has advised that it is illegal to cut or shove off bogs that have floated ashore. They are actively watching for this problem and will investigate and enforce any violation of the law in this regard on Big Birch Lake. Hopefully this will clarify and answer some of the questions many of us have regarding floating bogs. Should any of you have further questions regarding bogs please contact the AQUATIC PLANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE, MN. DNR., LITTLE FALLS MN, PH# 1-320-616-2450, Ext. 235.



Membership drive underway

By Renee Loehr

The 2009 Membership Drive is well under way with almost 330 memberships and over 50 sponsorships received as of the end March. Thank you for your continued support. In addition to the regular membership dues, the association has also received a number of donations and would like to say a special thank you to our donors.

2009 Members are listed in this newsletter. If you feel you have been omitted or included in error please call Renee Loehr at 285-2823 or your Area Director. Also, please contact us if you have not received your 2009 BBLA Membership Sign Up form or know of someone who would like to become a new member, and we will get the information out to you as soon as possible.

2009 Sponsors are also listed in this newsletter. We can all show our appreciation by supporting their businesses this year.

BIG BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC
PO BOX 342
GREY EAGLE, MN 56336

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
CODE 56352
PERMIT NO. 15